THE

EXPERIENCED CHRISTIAN'S MAGAZINE.

CONSISTING CHIEFLY OF

NARRATIONS AND EXTRACTS FROM VARIOUS PUBLICATIONS,

BOTH ANCIENT AND MODERN.

HOLDING FORTH THE EXCELLENCY, AND NECESSITY OF GRACE

THROUGH JESUS CHRIST.

REV. W. PHŒBUS, *EDITOR.*

THE Chamber where the good man meets his fate,
Is privileg'd beyond the common Walk
Of *virtuous* life, quite in the verge of Heaven.
Fly, ye Profane! If not, draw near with awe,
Receive the bleſſing!——
Heaven waits not the laſt moment, owns her friends
On this ſide death: and points them out to men,
A lecture, ſilent, but of ſovereign pow'r!
To vice, confuſion; and to virtue, peace.

YOUNG.

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HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PENNSYLVANIA

TO THE PATRONISERS

OF THE

EXPERIENCED CHRISTIAN'S MAGAZINE.

DEAR FRIENDS,

I AM perſuaded that nothing ſtrikes the mind of a wiſe and attentive obſerver, ſo forcibly, as well atteſted facts. Nothing hath ſo ſtrong a tendency to convince the judgment, and influence the conduct. In the collection here propoſed, it is my deſign to place before your view, a ſeries of indubitable and intereſting facts. Some of the moſt renowned, ſome of the moſt worthy perſons, after a life of exemplary devotion, and exalted virtue, bearing their dying teſtimony to the excellency of the goſpel, and the pleaſure of religion. Perſons from different countries, of different denominations, and flouriſhing in diſtant periods of time.—Perſons in the moſt awful moment of their exiſtence; when hypocriſy drops the maſque; when worldly enjoyments loſe there weight, and there remains no more temptation to deceive —all theſe uniting in the ſame ſentiments—all repoſing their confidence in the ſame great Redeemer; all proclaiming the dignity, efficacy, and glory of the goſpel of Jeſus Chriſt, in a manner ſuperior to language;—proclaiming it by peace of conſcience, which the whole world

cannot give; and by a joy of heart, which tranſcends all deſcription. The very naming of which tends to ſtrengthen thoſe, who have embraced the ſame evangelic ſyſtem, and whoſe ſouls do love the ſame divine Mediator. In favour of this, we have the teſtimony of the learned and pious Mr. Addiſon, in the following words:

"There is nothing in hiſtory, which is ſo "improving to the reader, as thoſe accounts "which we meet with, of the deaths of eminent "perſons, and of their behaviour in that dreadful "ſeaſon."

In this, the ſtrong Chriſtian may view with a glow of gratitude, perhaps with raptures of delight, the faithfulneſs of his divine maſter, who never leaves nor forſakes his ſervants, no, not in the moſt trying ſeaſon, which is emphatically termed, *the time of need.* He may obſerve the never failing grace of that holy ſpirit; who opens the rich promiſes of the goſpel, and applies the precious merit of the Saviour, and makes the ſoldier of Jeſus, *always triumphant.*

And ſhould the unbeliever be ſo impartial, as to mark theſe diſciples of Jeſus Chriſt, and conſider the end of their profeſſion, he muſt acknowledge the divinity and unexampled power of the glorious goſpel, for as much, as it brings ſuch ſtrong conſolation in an hour ſo much dreaded by nature. Should the deſpiſers of Jeſus, in a ſerious interval, take up and read an account of the end of the experienced chriſtian, with the contraſt, he

muſt ſee the genuine fruits of unfeigned faith, and the bleſſed conſequence of vital holineſs.

A ſcene ſo ſtrong to ſtrike, ſo ſweet to charm,
So great to raiſe, ſo heavenly to inſpire;
So ſolid to ſupport fair virtue's throne. YOUNG.

There are a variety of treatiſes, written on a variety of ſubjects, in which many people are no way intereſted; but the ſubject of the Experienced Chriſtian's Magazine, appertains to all. It is appointed by an irrevocable decree, *all muſt die*. There is no diſcharge in this warfare—no, not for the moſt thoughtleſs upon earth.

In theſe numbers, they may alſo learn how the careleſs have lamented the extravagancy of their paſt lives, reflecting with bitterneſs of ſoul on the moments trifled away, in which they ſhould have improved the day of their viſitation; of which the following ſheets, favoured by your patronage, will give ſome moving inſtances. Preſuming, that an endeavour of this nature, not ſhackled with a ſpirit of party, may prove acceptable, I have humbly dedicated this, in teſtimony of reſpect, for the confidence you have placed in me, and am

With ſentiments of gratitude and affection,

Your humble ſervant,

WILLIAM PHŒBUS, EDITOR.